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Proceedings at Boston, May 19th, 1875.

THE meeting of the Society was held, as usual, in the Library of the American Academy, in the Athenæum building, at 10 o'clock A. M. The President and all the Vice-Presidents being absent, the chair was taken by Prof. A. P. Peabody, D.D., of Cambridge, the senior Director present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The Treasurer presented his annual report, of which a summary is as follows :

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, May 20th, 1874,	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,530.00
Annual Assessments paid in,	-	-	-	-	\$75.00	
Life-membership,	-	-	-	-	75.00	
Sale of the Journal,	-	-	-	-	33.72	
Interest on deposit in Savings Bank,	-	-	-	-	92.13	
Total receipts of the year,	-	-	-	-	-	275.85
						<u>\$1,805.85</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Printing and engraving for Proceedings,	-	-	-	\$123.92	
Expenses of Library and Correspondence,	-	-	-	26.93	
Total expenditures of the year,	-	-	-	-	\$150.85
Balance on hand, May 19th, 1875,	-	-	-	-	1,655.00
					<u>\$1,805.85</u>

The report, having been audited by a committee appointed for the purpose, was accepted.

The Librarian made a brief oral report; the additions to the Library during the year had come chiefly from exchanges.

The Directors announced that they had appointed the next meeting to be held in the autumn in New Haven, on such a day as should be selected by the Committee of Arrangements, viz: the President and the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries. Also, that they had reappointed the Committee of Publication of last year, namely: Messrs. Salisbury, Van Name, and Whitney, of New Haven, Abbot of Cambridge, and Ward of New York.

A Nominating Committee, composed of Professors Young of Cambridge and Thayer of Andover and Dr. Pickering of Boston, was appointed, to propose a board of officers for the year. They presented the following ticket, which was thereupon elected by the Society:

<i>President</i>	—Prof. E. E. SALISBURY, LL.D.,	of New Haven.
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	{ Rev. N. G. CLARK, D.D.,	“ Boston.
	{ Hon. PETER PARKER, M.D.,	“ Washington.
	{ Rev. T. D. WOOLSEY, LL.D.,	“ New Haven.
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	—Prof. EZRA ABBOT, LL.D.,	“ Cambridge.
<i>Corresp. Secretary</i>	—Prof. W. D. WHITNEY, Ph.D.,	“ New Haven.
<i>Secr. of Class. Sect.</i>	—Prof. W. W. GOODWIN, Ph.D.,	“ Cambridge.
<i>Treas'r and Libr'n</i>	—MR. ADDISON VAN NAME,	“ New Haven.
<i>Directors</i>	{ Mr. J. W. BARROW,	“ New York.
	{ Mr. A. I. COTHEAL,	“ New York.
	{ Prof. W. H. GREEN, D.D.,	“ Princeton.
	{ Prof. A. P. PEABODY, D.D.,	“ Cambridge.
	{ Dr. CHARLES PICKERING,	“ Boston.
	{ Prof. CHARLES SHORT, LL.D.,	“ New York.
	{ Rev. W. H. WARD, D.D.,	“ New York.

The following candidates were proposed by the Directors for corporate membership, and were duly elected by ballot :

Rev. H. L. Cobb, of Millbrook, N. Y. ;
 Prof. E. P. Evans (now in Europe) ;
 Prof. E. P. Gould, of Newton Centre, Mass. ;
 Rev. Joseph Jenks, of Newtonville, Mass. ;
 Rev. O. D. Miller, of Grantville, Mass. ; and
 Rev. Thomas H. Rich, of Lewiston, Me.

In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, Prof. Whitney, the correspondence of the past six months was laid before the Society by Mr. Van Name, who read some extracts from it.

Rev. G. T. Washburn writes (Lenox Furnace, June 12th, 1874) :

“ I have recently sent you by express a small case containing a few pieces of pottery from the cists of stone circles and stone box-like tombs of the Madura district in southern India. These tombs and circles are spoken of in the Proceedings of the Society for October, 1868 [Journal, vol. ix., p. xlv. ff.]. I have opened and seen opened several in different parts of the district. There is a general uniformity in the pottery contained in them, but considerable difference in the number, elaborateness, and variety of the vessels found in different circles and tombs. Some small and very neat vessels quite unlike these were pilfered by the natives from the collection I now send, greatly to my regret.

“ I observed at the sides of some of the cists not only the pottery articles, but the remains of bones and ashes, and the relic of what appeared to be an iron implement, now almost destroyed by rust.

“ These tombs and circles abound in all parts of the Madura district—on the higher ranges of mountains, the lower ranges, and the plains. They are also met with in the districts north and south, even to the northern mountain-ranges of India—all essentially of one character.

“ I observe a description of somewhat similar structures in Palmer's ‘ Desert of the Exodus.’ The cists, the style of burials, etc., seem to resemble what we find in India, but the ‘ bee-hive-like huts’ are not like any tombs I have seen there. The circles also appear to be the same.

“ Evidently, there must have been a considerable population of these tomb-builders in southern India ; for the tombs are found in regions now, with the large population of the country, almost uninhabited, and in any case likely to be inhabited only under extreme necessity.”

Mr. Van Name also presented the list of members of the Society deceased during the year: namely, of Honorary members,

Prof. Heinrich von Ewald, of Göttingen ;
Prof. Emil Rödiger, of Berlin ; and
Prof. Constantin von Tischendorf, of Leipsic ;

and, of Corporate members,

Mr. I. S. Diehl, of New York ; and
Mr. W. A. Wheeler, of Boston.

Prof. Young, of Cambridge, read an appreciative sketch of Ewald's life and labors ; Mr. Van Name also spoke of Ewald, and, still more particularly, of Rödiger ; Prof. Abbot paid a tribute to the memory of Tischendorf, and eulogized the solid and modest worth of Mr. Wheeler, and his many services to the cause of learning.

Communications were then presented, as follows :

1. Dr. A. O. Treat, of the North China Mission, spoke to the Society of the language of China, its tones and aspirates, and its contrast with the Japanese in respect to euphony. He referred to the political relations of China and Japan, and to the interesting fact that the difficulties, threatening war, between the two powers had been settled by arbitration. The progressiveness of Japan, as contrasted with the conservatism of the Celestial Empire, was also made the subject of remark.

2. Prof. J. W. Jenks, of Newtonville, Mass., read a paper of memoranda, taken from the journals and papers of his father, Rev. William Jenks, D.D., bearing upon the origin and earliest history of the Society.

It appears from these extracts that the idea of an American Oriental Society originated with Dr. Jenks, as far back as 1822 or 1823. In 1830 occurs the following entry in his diary : " A call from Dr. J. Pickering ; resuscitated with him the plan of Asiatic Society, etc." Again, Aug. 1, 1842 : " Attended a meeting of gentlemen [names elsewhere given as Jenks, Pickering, Greenough, Theo. Parker] at Dr. Pickering's office on the formation of an Am. Oriental Society. The progress appears promising." Again, Aug. 20th : " Letter in reply to Hon. J. Pickering, enclosing a constitution for the A. O. S., with several remarks on articles and proposed amendments." Again, Sept. 8th : " Yesterday we organized the A. O. S., adopted a constitution, chose officers to obtain an act of incorporation, etc. I rejoice that now my wishes in this respect are so far gratified, and that I have lived to witness measures taken to realize an institution that for more than twenty years I have desired should be founded." Again, Sept. 12th : " Mr. W. W. Greenough called on the 10th, and we fixed the seal-device for A. O. S. Mitchell designed and is to engrave it." Again, Oct. 14th : " Letter to Dr. Pickering enclosing my completed list of 86 questions or subjects of research for the A. O. S., etc. Met the new Society yesterday afternoon, and heard the above questions, excepting a few of the last, read to them : encouraged." In 1846, after the death of Dr. Pickering, Dr. Jenks writes to Judge White respecting the former's interest in ethnology and the causes of it ; Dr. Jenks speaks of that subject as frequently occupying their conversations : " More especially," he says, " in the formation and progress of our American Oriental Society, an institution happily effected by his consent to become its President, and giving to it his valuable labors, influence, and reputation. Seldom in life have I enjoyed a higher gratification than when his consent was obtained ; for the establishment of such an association had been a favorite object with me for more than twenty years, and without him it could hardly have been brought into existence. How it can live and flourish without him remains still to be seen."

3. On the Method of Hieroglyphic Interpretation, and on the

Way Collection of Egyptian Antiquities in the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, by Prof. T. O. Paine, of Elmwood, Mass.

Prof. Paine described the hieroglyphic system of writing and the established methods of interpreting it, and gave a translation, with comment, of certain interesting inscriptions of the Way collection. Details are omitted here, as it is expected that the communication will form an article in the Journal.

4. On the Different Systems of Hieroglyphic Interpretation, by Prof. G. Seyffarth, of Yorkville, N. Y.

Prof. Seyffarth contrasted the hieroglyphic system of Champollion, as laid down in his *Précis* etc., Paris, 1824, and his own, as set forth in his *Grammatica Aegyptiaca*, Leipzig, 1855. He exhibited to the Society the manuscript of a hieroglyphical dictionary, which he hopes to publish in a year or two.

After the noon-recess of an hour, the Society resumed the hearing of communications.

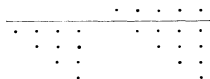
5. On the condition of Woman in Assyria, by Rev. Selah Merrill, of Andover, Mass.

Mr. Merrill treated of the condition of Assyrian Women under these heads: the general estimation in which they were held, as inferred from the language used by the Assyrians in relation to their female deities; their personal appearance; their clothing and ornaments; their education; their employments; their state of slavery; their suffering in war; their married state; their private rights, married and unmarried; their property.

6. On the Abacus of China and Japan, by Mr. A. Van Name, of New Haven.

This instrument, called in Chinese *swan p'an*, in Japanese *soroban*, according to the *Sampô daizen*, a Japanese treatise on mathematics published in 1825, which is the main authority for the exposition here given, was introduced into China about the middle of the 14th century, and passed thence to Japan. The method of use in China differs only in unimportant particulars from that here described.

The *soroban* consists of a rectangular frame holding a variable number of parallel rods, usually from fifteen to twenty-five, on which slide the beads which serve as counters. The rods are crossed by a bar which divides them into two unequal parts, the lower holding five beads, the upper one or two (the second is seldom used), each of the latter having the value of five of the former. The beads actually in use at any particular moment are pushed against this cross-bar, the others against the outer frame. The *soroban* is adapted to the decimal system, which is used in Japan not only for abstract numbers but also for most weights and measures. The number 123,456,789 would be represented on the *soroban* thus:



The rules are given and for the most part applied in a mechanical way. Tables of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facilitate the operations. The multiplication table is in the usual form, and extends to 9×9 ; the others are constructed with special reference to the *soroban*.

Only two quantities can be added by one operation. The first is set down on the *soroban*, and the second is added to it as fast as it is read off, the addition for

this reason beginning at the highest or left hand place. A table, for use only where the sum of the two numbers at any place exceeds ten, gives the difference between the number to be added and ten. This difference is subtracted from the number on the *soroban*, and one (ten) added to the next higher place. Thus $4 + 9$ (where 4 is the number on the *soroban*) $= 4 - 1 + 10$; but $9 + 4 = 9 - 6 + 10$. Where both the number to be added and the number already on the *soroban* exceed five, another rule, sometimes more convenient, is given. Instead of subtracting the complement of ten, add the excess above five, remove five, and carry one. Thus $7 + 6 = 7 + 1 - 5 + 10$; but $7 + 9$ is most conveniently added by the first rule; thus $7 + 9 = 7 - 1 + 10$.

In subtraction, the only case requiring consideration is where the number in the minuend is smaller than the corresponding place of the subtrahend. Here our method is to increase both by the same number, first the minuend by ten units, then the subtrahend by one ten, but the process on the *soroban* involves only a transfer from a higher to a lower place in the minuend. The table gives, as in addition, the difference between the subtrahend and ten. This is added to the minuend, and one is removed from the next higher place; thus $1 - 3 = 1 + 7 - 10$. The operation begins, as in addition and for the same reason, at the left hand.

In multiplication, the multiplier is set down on the left hand and the multiplicand in the middle. The lowest place of the multiplicand is first multiplied into the whole multiplier, the lowest place in the product being carried as many places to the right of the multiplicand as there are places in the multiplier. The lowest place of the multiplicand is then removed and the operation repeated with the next higher place. Care must be used to avoid error in combining the successive products, and in fixing the unit place in the general product, especially where in our notation there would be cyphers at the right of either multiplicand or multiplier. Where decimal fractions are introduced, the same number of decimal places must be set off in the product as are contained in the two factors combined.

In division, whether the divisor consists of one or more places, the first quotient, if the divisor or its highest place is contained in the highest place of the dividend, is set down in the first place to the left of the dividend, i. e. the quotient is in effect multiplied by ten, and this must be taken into account in estimating the value of the final quotient. The table is constructed with reference to this, and the quotient of $1 \div 1$ is given as 10. The table gives the quotients for the divisors from 1 to 9 where the dividend, not greater than 9, is less than the divisor, equal to it, or a multiple of it; thus when the divisor is 3, the quotients of 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, divided by 3. The remainder, if any, is joined in the table to the quotient; thus $1 \div 3 = 31$, where the quotient 3 takes the place of the dividend number (1) and the remainder (1) is added to the next lower, undivided place of the dividend. Where the dividend is greater than, but not a multiple of the divisor, it is resolved into two parts, a multiple of the divisor and a remainder, and each divided separately; thus $7 \div 3 = 6 \div 3 + 1 \div 3$. Where the divisor occupies more than one place, the *soroban* has a decided advantage over our method of long division. The multiplication and subtraction of the successive quotients into the highest place of the divisor are performed by the table, and we have only to subtract the product of the quotient into the remaining places of the divisor. Where the application of the rule would give too large a quotient (e. g. $100 \div 16$, taking into account only the highest places of the dividend and divisor would give the quotient 10), diminish the quotient by one, and increase the highest remaining place of the dividend by as many as there are units in the divisor, repeating the process until the product of the quotient into the remaining places of the divisor is so much diminished, and the dividend so much increased, that the former can be subtracted from the latter.

The method of extracting the square and cube root on the *soroban* is evidently borrowed from a foreign source. As given in the *Sampô daizen*, it corresponds exactly with our own, even to the accompanying geometrical demonstrations.*

* The method described in a communication made by Mr. A. Westphal on this same subject to the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur und Völkerkunde Ostasiens*, in Yokohama, in May, and published in the *Mittheilungen* for September, 1875, which is doubtless in more common use, has undergone a slight change, to adapt it the

In the appendix to the *Sampô daizen* the use of the *sangi*, a method of calculation which was supplanted by the *soroban*, is illustrated by examples. The counters are loose sticks which are arranged as follows :

I	II	III	IIII	IIII	┐	┐	┐	┐	—	=	≡	≡	≡	≡	┐	┐	┐	┐
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	

These are combined to express large numbers by juxtaposition, like our Arabic numerals; thus I—|≡111. The decimal places are marked by the units, tens, hundreds, etc., having alternately a vertical and horizontal direction. In the present work the numbers are arranged in a diagram composed of small squares, which answer to decimal places, and it is possible that a board similarly divided may have been used to aid the calculation. Where the numbers are represented without the aid of these squares, a circle is used like our cypher for a decimal place left vacant.

Negative quantities also are introduced, and are represented in the *sangi* by sticks of a different color, the positive being red and the negative black, and in the present treatise by a line drawn obliquely across the number. They are treated in the usual way—e. g., the product of two negative quantities being positive—and simple equations involving them are resolved.

7. Meshech and Kedar, or Nomadism, Northern and Southern, by Prof. J. W. Jenks, of Newtonville, Mass.

After describing the immense tract pervaded by Nomadism, from Morocco to the Ganges, and the partly parallel belt, from the Caspian to the Yellow Sea, with their respective central deserts, Prof. Jenks spoke of the long-lived characteristics of this kind of people, especially as described by the latest travelers; and also of their importance in history as the "armory" of Providence, as Jeremiah expressly calls them (Jer. l. 25, 41; li. 20, 28, etc.), whence came the "battle-axes," the "hammers," the "sword of the wilderness," and other "weapons of war"—the destroyers of corrupted, effete civilizations and empires, fossilized in sin and error, which stood in the way of human progress; thus inoculating diseased humanity with the free-born pulses of the wilderness. This importance and this use was thought to be not sufficiently acknowledged and dwelt upon by historians.

Pastoral pictures of Mongolian and Kirghis life were given, and curious details as to the perpetually shifting tramps, for nine months in the year, of the Kirghis families, in "aouls;" reminding one of the forty years' wanderings of the Israelites in Rocky Arabia. The Kurds, between Turkey and Persia, were described, and shown to be affiliated with the Chaldees, who figure so largely in antebiblical and biblical history—shifting, for cause, back and forth between nomadic and settled life, and still retaining that primitive force of character which gave rise to the terrible description by Habakkuk (i. 6-10), seven centuries before Christ, and to the remark of Mohammed, seven centuries after Christ, that "the Kurds would yet revolutionize the world."

The independent, self-reliant, liberty-loving, hardy, and, on the whole, manly character of the northern nomad was dwelt upon, as constituting excellent, nay the very best, raw material for the making of history. Prof. Rawlinson was quoted as remarking that all Asia, or at least all western Asia, discovers proofs, both linguistic and monumental, of having been originally nomadic (Turanian). Hence was drawn the inference that at the first, as we see them now and in historic times, prehistoric nomads crystallized into states and empires, more or less cohesive, which dissolved again from time to time into their original elements, to be crystallized anew in different combinations and affinities. And this occurred

better to the *soroban*. After subtracting the square of the first term of the root $a + b$ from $a^2 + 2ab + b^2$, the remainder is divided by 2, giving $ab + \frac{b^2}{2}$. The necessity of doubling the first term of the root is thus avoided, and the operation on the *soroban* somewhat shortened. The process of extracting the cube root is shortened in the same way by dividing by 3.

again and again along all the borders of the great wildernesses belting Africa and Asia, from Atlantic to Pacific.

So important an element of history, in all ages, is certainly worthy of the thorough and thoughtful study of the orientalist.

8. On a Praying-machine in use among the Mongols, by Dr. A. O. Treat.

The machine was described, and exhibited to the Society. It consisted of slips of paper, with prayers in the Tibetan character written upon them, enclosed in a cylindrical case revolving on a handle, so as to be whirled about while held with the hand. The prayers are thus offered with great facility by a manual operation, while the devotee is walking, riding, talking, or smoking.

No further communications being offered, the Society, after passing a vote of thanks to the American Academy for the use of its rooms, adjourned to meet at New Haven in the autumn.